

Minutes of the Co-operative Energy Ltd Board meeting, 5 June 1997, Maritime Union of Australia, 46 Ireland Street, West Melbourne

PRESENT: G. Charles, Tony Gill, Bill McPherson and David Griffiths

OTHER: V. Hughes

APOLOGY: Ian Pearce

1. Resolved that the minutes be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings of 7 April and 5 May 1997 and be signed by the Chairman. CARRIED

cooperativen-l

The Secretary again reminded directors that only Grame Charles and Bill McPherson had subscribed to cooperativen-l.

He said that 24 April 1997 there were 79 subscribers.

He reported that the following news stories had been posted:

8 April 1997	Opportunities for Health Co-operatives in Australia	Health	Australia
9 April 1997	Pharmacy Cooperative Going Private	Health	Australia
12 April 1997	Credit Union Breakthrough in Australia	Credit Union	Australia
13 April 1997	Greenhouse and Cooperatives	Energy	Australia
18 April 1997	Credit Unions Applaud Wallis Report	Credit Union	Australia
19 April 1997	Worker Co-operatives	Worker	Australia
19 April 1997	Electric Co-ops & Community	Energy	USA
19 April 1997	Progress Report No 1		
20 April 1997	Farmer Co-ops & Tax Concessions	Farmer	Australia
20 April 1997	Credit Union Care	Credit Union	Australia
20 April 1997	Tree Co-ops Supported	Forestry	Australia
4 May 1997	Forestry Cooperative Opportunities	Forestry	Australia
7 May 1997	UK: Cooperative Legislation	Legislation	UK
7 May 1997	UK: Cooperative Party	Politics	UK
14 May 1997	Archiving cooperativen-l	Administration	
15 May 1997	UK: CWS Breaks Ranks	Retail	UK
15 May 1997	USA: Electric Co-op Brand Name	Energy	USA
15 May 1997	Aussie National Co-op Update	Communication	Australia
16 May 1997	Co-op Eye Care	Health	UK
20 May 1997	Aussie Electric Coop Paper	Energy	Australia
20 May 1997	ICA: International Cooperative Day	ICA	Europe

Documents

The Secretary provided Directors with copies of the following documents:

Electricity Supply Association (UK) **Position Paper 1: Windfall Taxes**

"Finding a method of payment" **The Times**, 16 May 1997

HM Treasury News Release Windfall Levy Handling of Representations From Utilities 43/97, 13 May 1997

"Householders given power to switch electricity companies" **Electronic Telegraph**, 17 January 1995

"Littlechild looks at plan to phase in competition" **Electronic Telegraph**, Issue 454, 19 August 1996

"Littlechild passes on costs to users" **Electronic Telegraph** Issue 726, 21 May 1997

"Littlechild seeks surge in power competition" **Electronic Telegraph**, Issue 608, 23 January 1997

News Release from the Office of the Acting Treasurer, Country Customers To Benefit From Electricity Reforms, ND

News Release from the Office of the Acting Treasurer New Survey Underlines Victorias Competitive Edge, 7 February 1997

News Release from the Office of the Premier Taxpayers Win From New Loy Yang B Deal, 1 April 1997

"Power consumers urge competition" **Electronic Telegraph**, Issue 434 24 July 1996

The House Commerce Committee Backgrounder (US Congress) **Electric Power to Choose** 12 February 1997

"Timetable for power reform questioned" **Electronic Telegraph**, Issue 714, 9 May 1997

"Watchdog may face Recs' revolt on pricing" **The Times** 3 June 1997

"Windfall tax comes under fire" **The Times**, 17 May 1997

"Windfall tax faces legal challenge" **The Times** 16 May 1997

Email

It was noted that four board members had email addresses:

Bill McPherson billmac@mail.labyrinth.net.au

Graeme Charles graemech@peg.apc.org

John Dick

David Griffiths davidg@peg.apc.org and davidg@majestic.net.au

Tony Gill tonygill@netconnect.com.au

The Secretary noted that only Graeme Charles and Bill McPherson had subscribed to cooperativen-l

The Secretary also noted member Roger Lamb's email lamze@pop.netSPACE.com.au

Moreland City Council

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter dated 13 May 1997 from Councilor Mike Hill noting that 23 submissions had been received in response to the Moreland Energy Conservation and Management Strategy. Cr Hill's letter noted that suggestions in the submissions were being evaluated and that a feasibility study was being undertaken into the establishment of an energy trust.

Photocopying

The Secretary reminded the Board that from 6 June 1997 alternative arrangements were necessary for photocopying.

Annual Levy

The Secretary reported that the following directors had not paid the annual levy in full or part:

Director

Amount Owed

Graeme Charles	\$150
Tony Gill	\$150
Bill McPherson	\$150
John Dick	\$100

Mr Gill provided a cheque for \$150 and Mr Charles provided a cheque for \$50. Mr Charles said that he would make two further payments of \$50 each over the next two months.

United Energy

The Secretary reported that United Energy was establishing a Customer Care Consultative Committee and that on 4 June 1997 he had requested the Customer Care Co-ordinator, Kaylene Rowe, to provide additional information and an expression of interest form. He said that expressions of interest closed on 20 June 1997.

Share Allotment

2. Resolved to allot shares to:
David Griffiths 20 shares (Numbers 101-120)

Victorian Council of Social Service

The Secretary tabled a letter of 6 May 1997 received from the Secretary of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd from Patsy Morrison, Executive Director, Victorian Council of Social Service. He noted that VCOSS had agreed to write to 30 of its largest members in order to gauge their interest in a VCOSS/ Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd workshop.

The Secretary reported that he had been telephoned by Gavan Dufty, of VCOSS, on 4 June 1997 and that to date the following organisations had expressed an interest in attending a meeting:

Baptist Community Services
 Berry Street Children Services
 Gill Network
 Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
 Melbourne City Mission
 Salvation Army
 Wesley Central Mission

He said that a meeting was planned for:
 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
 Thursday
 31 July 1997

VCOSS would pay for the meeting room and the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd would provide light refreshments. He said that ORG had already indicated to Gavan Dufty that it would be represented at the meeting.

The Secretary asked that all Board members make themselves available for the meeting.

He reported that the news media will be invited to the meeting.

Recruitment Committee

Vern Hughes and Bill McPherson reported on the three meetings of the Recruitment Committee. He said that work was underway on a Membership Information Kit.

It was noted that Vern Hughes, Bill McPherson and Gavan Sheehan had attended three meetings and David Griffiths one meeting.

Tony Gill said that a Membership Information Kit would have to include the Rules and a recent Annual Report.

It was also noted that non-cooperatives would not be able to join Co-operative Energy Ltd until the new Act came into force.

It was agreed that the Membership Kit would be developed as an Information Kit for the VCOSS-Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd workshop on 31 July 1997 and the Kit would be presented to the next Board meeting.

Vern Hughes reported there was concern by members of the Recruitment Committee that an annual subscription of \$50 for households was a disincentive.

Rules

3. Resolved that the rules be amended to provided for:

Household members paying for 10 \$1 shares, a \$50 joining fee and an annual subscription of \$20
Sole traders and partnership members paying for 10 \$1 shares and an annual subscription of \$50

Organisation members paying for 10 \$1 shares and an annual subscription of \$200

It was noted that in revising the Rules it would be necessary to define households, organisations, sole traders and partnerships.

It was also agreed to initiate the process of revising the Rules in accordance with the new Act so that these could be registered as soon as possible.

Special General Meeting

4. Resolved to call a Special General Meeting for 11.00 am, 11 July 1997 at the Maritime Union of Australia, 1st Floor, 46 Ireland Street, West Melbourne, to consider a special resolution to amend Part C- Members/Capital/Shares.

Co-opEnergy

It was agreed that the lead article should focus on Co-operative Energy Ltd and its achievements and not the UK windfall levy.

It was noted that G. Charles and D. Griffiths were responsible for editorial content.

Purchasing Victoria

5. Resolved that Co-operative Energy Ltd apply for membership of Purchasing Victoria Co-operative Ltd.

6. Resolved that, in the event of our application for membership being successful, we appoint Tony Gill as our representative to Purchasing Victoria Co-operative Ltd.

7. Resolved that, in the event of our application for membership being successful, we nominate Tony Gill to fill a directorial vacancy on the Board of Purchasing Victoria Co-operative Ltd.

Scoping Study

It was noted that the Electric Industry Co-operative TaskForce might agree to recommend to the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd that Corrs be asked to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement which co-operatives would sign to authorise a broker to act on their behalf.

Festival of Self Help & Social Action

It was noted that on Sunday 15 June 1997 the Dight St Community Centre, Harmsworth Street, Collingwood was organising a Festival of Self Help & Social Action and that the booking fee for an information table or display was \$5. Bill McPherson offered to attend the Festival on behalf of Co-operative Energy Ltd.

Next Meeting: 11 July 1997 after the 11.00 am Special General Meeting.